



## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

### News Release

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### **HAWAII'S SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT 4.9 PERCENT IN NOVEMBER**

#### **National Unemployment Rate at 6.7 percent**

**HONOLULU** - The Hawai'i State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations announced today that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for November was 4.9 percent, an increase of 0.3 percentage point over October's revised rate of 4.6 percent. In comparison, the U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate went from 6.5 percent in October to 6.7 percent in November. Over the last six months, Hawai'i's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has been on average 1.8 percentage points lower than the national unemployment rate. Hawai'i's seasonally adjusted labor force in November totaled 660,400 and was comprised of 627,750 employed and 32,650 unemployed.

State of Hawaii Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Data			
	<u>Nov 2008</u>	<u>Oct 2008</u>	<u>Nov 2007</u>
Labor Force	660,400	665,300	647,100
Employment	627,750	634,900	628,250
Unemployment	32,650	30,400	18,850

	NOV 2008	OCT 2008	NOV 2007
<b>STATE</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>2.9</b>
HONOLULU	4.4	3.8	2.7
HAWAII COUNTY	7.0	6.4	3.7
KAUAI	6.5	5.5	2.9
MAUI COUNTY	6.0	5.3	3.4
Maui Island	5.8	5.1	3.3
Molokai	12.9	12.7	7.1
Lanai	4.5	4.5	2.7
<b>U. S.</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>4.7</b>

County/Island unemployment rates are not seasonally adjusted.

### **Industry Payroll Employment**

In another measure of employment, total seasonally adjusted nonagricultural jobs grew by 1,200 from 620,300 in October to 621,500. There were reported job losses in nearly every industry in the private sector. Job declines were noted in Other Services (-100), Educational & Health Services (-200), Construction and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-300 each) and Leisure and Hospitality (-700). Government comprised the largest growth in jobs predominantly in state government shared between staffing in the Department of Education and poll workers hired in the general election. Over-the-year, from November 2007, the seasonally adjusted job count declined by 2,200 jobs, most of which were in the private sector.

“As emphasized by the Governor, mayors, legislators, private sector executives, nonprofit leaders and labor union officials during a meeting last week to focus on the Hawai‘i Economic Stabilization Initiative, it is important for all of us to work collaboratively to get our workforce in every industry back on the job,” said Darwin L.D. Ching, Director of Labor and Industrial Relations. “The Department of Labor is fully committed to assist in implementing Governor Lingle’s Five Point-Economic Plan and expediting \$1.8 billion dollars of state infrastructure improvement projects to stimulate and strengthen our economy and create jobs,” he added.

<b>Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs (State)</b>			
SELECTED SERIES:	Nov-08	Oct-08	Nov-07*
NATURAL RESOURCES, MINING AND CONSTRUCTION	37,700	38,000	39,700
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	117,000	117,300	121,000
Wholesale Trade	18,500	18,500	18,500
Retail Trade	69,600	70,000	70,100
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	74,100	74,300	72,800
Educational Services	14,600	14,700	13,900
Health Care and Social Assistance	59,500	59,600	58,900
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	105,300	106,000	109,000
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	11,100	11,100	11,900
Accommodation & Food Services	94,200	94,900	97,100
OTHER SERVICES	27,400	27,500	26,900
GOVERNMENT	130,100	126,200	122,700
Federal Government	32,200	32,600	31,400
State Government	79,200	74,900	73,200
Local Government	18,700	18,700	18,100
<b>TOTAL: STATE</b>	<b>621,500</b>	<b>620,300</b>	<b>623,700</b>

❖ **Other Services (-100)**

This miscellaneous group reported 100 job losses after remaining stable a month earlier.

The decrease was shared with social advocacy organizations and personal care services.

❖ **Educational and Health Services (-200)**

This major industry fell by 200 jobs from October. Educational Services and Health Care and Social Assistance each lost 100 jobs. Education reported a drop in private institutions, while Health Care and Social Assistance registered fewer workers mainly in Hospitals.

❖ **Construction (-300)**

Construction continues its downward trend contracting by 300 jobs over-the-month. The decrease was in nonresidential building construction, as well as in special trade contractors, building equipment contractors and building finishing contractors. The decline in this major

industry was partly due to the completion of existing work and the slowdown of new contract activities as reflected in the increase in initial unemployment claims filings.

❖ **Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (-300)**

This major sector also experienced a 300-job drop in November. Wholesale Trade remained relatively unchanged. The upturn in beer, wine and distilled alcoholic beverage merchant wholesalers was offset by the downturn in grocery and related product merchant wholesalers. Retail Trade registered a 400-job loss in several sectors including building material and garden equipment and supplies dealers; motor vehicle and parts dealers; and gasoline stations. Transportation and Warehousing accounted for a net 100-job gain in couriers.

The recent announcement of the discount retailer Target opening stores in Hawai'i brings welcome news to our economy. The opening of two sites on O'ahu in March of next year and another location on the Big Island in May will add more than a thousand jobs to the Retail industry. The mass hiring will help counter some of the job losses experienced during the last several months.

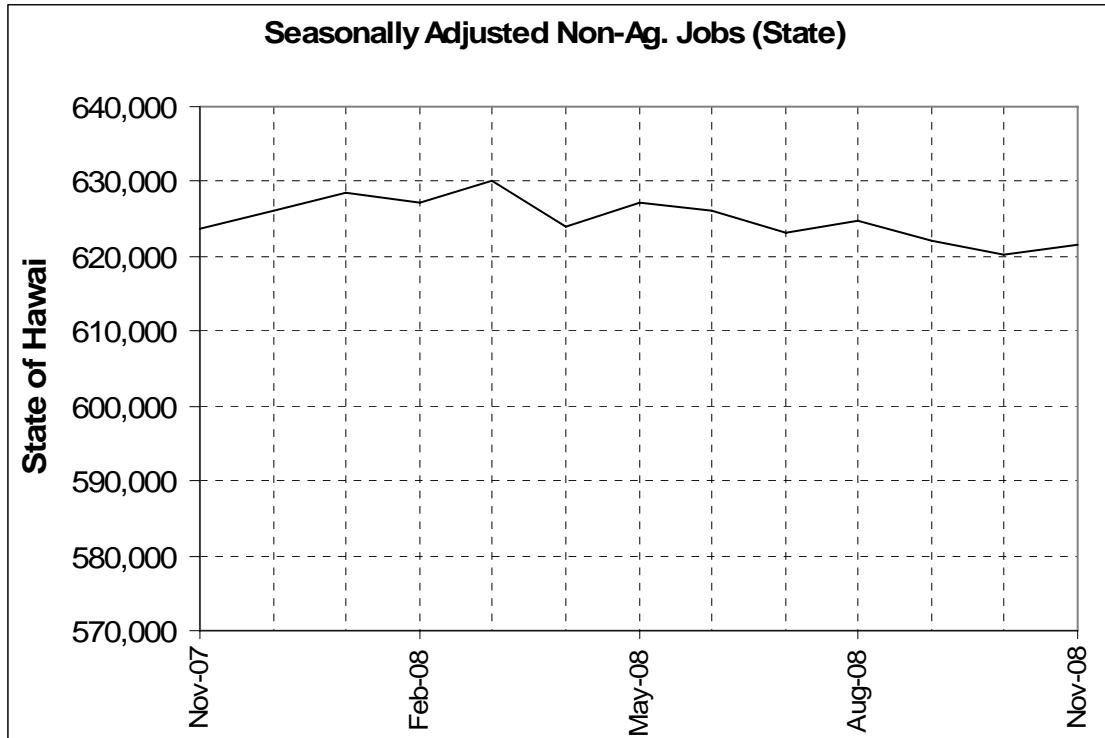
❖ **Leisure and Hospitality (-700)**

Leisure and Hospitality dipped by 700 jobs from October. Arts, Entertainment and Recreation remained stable. The increase in museums was countered by the reduction in performing arts, spectator sports and related industries. Accommodation and Food Services constituted the entire contraction in this major industry. Hotels continued to release staff due to slow business, which was reflected in part by reported drops in both hotel occupancy rates and visitor arrivals. Meanwhile, the re-opening of the Mauna Kea Hotel on the Big Island in December will add more jobs to staff the newly built hotel. Food Services also accounted for part of the decrease in full-service restaurants.

❖ **Government (+3,900)**

Government recorded the largest job gain in November. Federal Government slipped by 400 jobs while Local Government remained virtually unchanged for the third consecutive month. State Government expanded by the largest proportion shared by both the

Department Education and the hiring of poll workers and election officials during the general election.



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